

Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Final Office Action dated November 15, 2007

Remarks

The preceding amendments and following remarks are submitted in response to the Final Official Action of the Examiner mailed November 15, 2007, setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response ending February 15, 2007. Claims 1, 3-7, 10-12, 15-17, 21, and 23-31 remain pending. Reconsideration, examination and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 36 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 26-31 are allowed. In paragraph 37 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner states that claim 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, claim 22 has been included in independent claim 21, and claim 22 has been canceled without prejudice. In view of the foregoing, claims 21 and 26-31 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Also, claims 1, 3-7, 10-12, 15-17 and 23-25 are now either directly or indirectly dependent from allowed claim 21. As such, claims 1, 3-7, 10-12, 15-17 and 23-25 are all believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-17, 21, 23-25 and 32 for various reasons. Applicant respectfully but ardently disagrees with each and every one of these rejections. The Applicant believes the Examiner is taking unreasonable positions with respect to the claims. However, since we are after final, Applicant has elected to take the allowed claims. Applicant does, however, reserve the right to prosecute the rejected claims in one or more continuation applications, if desired.

Conclusion

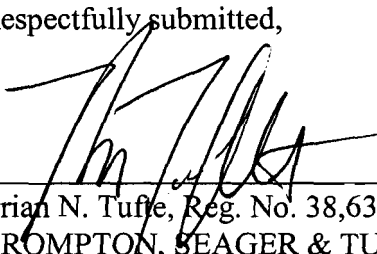
Application Serial No. 10/811,670
Reply to Final Office Action dated November 15, 2007

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims 1, 3-7, 10-12, 15-17, 21, and 23-31 are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If it would be beneficial to discuss the application or its examination in any way, the Examiner is encouraged to call the Applicant at (612) 359-9348.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 13, 2008



Brian N. Tufte, Reg. No. 38,638
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2402
Telephone: (612) 359-9348
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349